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**CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

## Claim Amendments

**SEP 1 7 2009**

1. (currently amended) A method for providing presence state information comprising the steps of:

    receiving first messages by a presence server from at least two switches in the public switched telephone network (PSTN) containing call event information for consumer premises equipment (CPE) supported by telephone lines served by the respective switches, where the first messages are transmitted from the at least two switches over a signaling system 7 network to the presence server disposed in infrastructure of the PSTN;

    determining by the presence server a presence state of a PSTN subscriber associated with at least one of the telephone lines based on the call event information where the call event information defines both when the one telephone line is available and is not available to receive a call;

    transmitting by the presence server a second message over the Internet using Internet protocol to a first Internet terminal equipment of a first Internet user, the second message containing the presence state information associated with the at least one of the telephone lines~~.~~;

    receiving the second message at the first Internet terminal equipment of the first Internet user, determining a visual indicia corresponding to the presence state information contained in the second message, and displaying said visual indicia with a Pal identification label with which the visual indicia is associated;

    the visual indicia comprising time information of the time within which the PSTN subscriber is determined to be available for communications.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of determining a call state of the at least one of the telephone lines based on the call event information contained within each of the first messages, and storing in memory at least the previous call state associated with the at least one of the telephone lines.

3. (original)   The method according to claim 2 wherein the step of determining the presence state of the PSTN subscriber comprises comparing a current call state associated with the one telephone line with the stored previous call state associated with the at least one telephone line.

4 - 7. Canceled.

8. (previously presented)   The method according to claim 1 wherein the first messages received are in a PSTN compatible protocol and are transmitted on every occurrence of the one of the telephone lines changing from one presence state to another presence state.

9. (previously presented)   The method according to claim 1 wherein said first messages are originated by the PSTN switches and are transmitted on every occurrence of the one telephone line changing from one presence state to another presence state.

10. (previously presented)   The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting the second message comprises transmitting second messages containing the presence state information associated with the at least one of the telephone lines, wherein the presence state information includes time information.

11. (previously presented)   The method according to claim 10 wherein the time information comprises a time when said call event occurred.

12. (original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the time information comprises a determined time interval following the occurrence of the call event during which the PSTN subscriber is defined to be available for communications.

13. (previously presented)   The method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one of the telephone lines is connected to a PSTN terminal that is not capable of direct Internet communications.

14. (currently amended)      A method for providing presence state information to an Internet user using an Internet terminal coupled to the Internet about consumer premises equipment (CPE) supported by a public switched telephone network (PSTN) where the CPE does not have direct Internet communications capability, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving first messages by a presence server from at least two switches in the PSTN containing call event information for telephone lines coupled to the CPE and served by the respective switches, where the first messages are transmitted from the at least two switches over a signaling system 7 network to the presence server disposed in infrastructure of the PSTN;

determining by the presence server a presence state of a PSTN subscriber associated with a first telephone line based on the call event information where the call event information defines both when the first telephone line is available and is not available to receive a call;

transmitting by the presence server a second message over the Internet using Internet protocol to the Internet terminal of the Internet user, the second message containing the presence state information associated with the first telephone line-;

receiving the second message at the first Internet terminal equipment of the first Internet user, determining a visual indicia corresponding to the presence state information contained in the second message, and displaying said visual indicia with a Pal identification label with which the visual indicia is associated;

the visual indicia comprising time information of the time within which the PSTN subscriber is determined to be available for communications.


15. (original) The method according to claim 14 further comprising the steps of receiving the second message at the first Internet terminal of the Internet user, determining a visual indicia corresponding to the presence state information contained in the second message, and displaying said visual indicia representing the presence state on the Internet terminal with a Pal identification label with which the visual indicia is associated.


16. (previously presented)      The method according to claim 15 wherein the first messages are in a PSTN compatible protocol and are transmitted on every occurrence of the first telephone line changing from one presence state to another presence state.

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17. (previously presented)    The method according to claim 15 wherein said first messages are originated by the at least two switches in the PSTN and are transmitted on every occurrence of the first telephone line changing from one presence state to another presence state.

18. (previously presented)    The method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of displaying one of a PSTN telephone number and a name of the party with whom the Pal is having a telephone call.

19. (previously presented)  The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the first messages comprises receiving the first messages by a service control point that is  coupled to the presence server disposed as part of the infrastructure of the PSTN, and the step of transmitting the second message comprises transmitting the second message by the presence server on every occurrence of the one telephone line changing from one presence state to another presence state.

20. (previously presented)  The method of claim 14 wherein the step of receiving the first messages comprises receiving the first messages by a service control point that is coupled to the presence server disposed as part of the infrastructure of the PSTN, and the step of transmitting the second message comprises transmitting the second message by the presence server on every occurrence of the first telephone line changing from one presence state to another presence state.